United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1339
26 February 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General decides to send goodwill mission to Uganda and Rwanda to report on peace process in latter country; will make recommendations to Security Council.

+ Marco Vianello-Chiodo of Italy appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Department of Public Information, effective 1 March.

+ Security Council holds formal meeting this evening on Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace".

+ Theft of United Nations property and harassment of UNTAC observers by members of National Alliance for Democratic Kampuchea reported by UNTAC spokesman.

+ Commission on Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, condemns all violations of human rights in former Yugoslavia by all sides to conflict; extends mandate of Special Rapporteur on this subject for one year.

+ IAEA Board calls on Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond promptly to agency's request for access to additional information and to two sites in the country.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement issued at Headquarters today, said he had decided to send a goodwill mission to Uganda and Rwanda to oversee the peace process in Rwanda, which has been torn by a conflict between forces of the Rwandese Patriotic Front and the Government. The mission, which will also visit Dar-es-Salaam and Addis Ababa for consultations with Tanzania and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), will report to the Secretary-General who will then make recommendations to the Security Council.

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For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General made the decision following requests earlier this week by the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda for the dispatch of a United Nations observer/monitor force of "appropriate size" to be stationed on both sides of the border between the two countries.

The mission, which will leave New York on 2 March, will comprise Mr. Macaire Pedanou (Togo), former Director in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and Florence Barrillon Pomès, Senior Political Affairs Officer at the Department of Political Affairs.

The team is expected to return to Headquarters on 17 March.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Mr. Marco Vianello-Chiodo of Italy as Assistant Secretary-General for Department of Public Information (DPI), as of Monday, 1 March.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Vianello-Chiodo was the Deputy Executive Director (External Relations) of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General, a post he held since 1987. He joined UNICEF in 1984 as Director of Programme Funding Office responsible for the fundraising of the agency.

From 1959 to 1984, Mr. Vianelli-Chiodo served the Italian Foreign Ministry in various capacities, including as Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and as Minister Plenipotentiary in Rome

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The Security Council was expected to hold a formal meeting this evening concerning the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace". Tonight's meeting is the second formal meeting of the Council on the report, which was issued on 24 June in response to a request by the first summit meeting of the Security Council, held last January.

The report reviews recent developments affecting international peace and security and introduces a multi-faceted integrated programme of proposals aimed at enhancing the United Nations effectiveness in early warning of potential conflicts and post-conflict measures to build peace among former adversaries.

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The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has reported that harassment of its military and civilian personnel and theft of United Nations property by members of the National Alliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) were occurring increasingly.

In a press release issued today, the spokesman for UNTAC cited an incident yesterday in which a team of UNTAC observers, who had gone to a

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village near Siem Reap to investigate charges of an "alleged cease-fire violation", had to hand over their vehicles and radio equipment to a group owing allegiance to the NADK. The observers, he said, were prevented from leaving the village unless they parted with the equipment. Negotiations between another UNTAC team dispatched from the sector headquarters and the NADK failed to resolve the situation, he stated.

The spokesman said there was "a disturbing pattern" in the incidents which involved theft of United Nations property. The matter would be brought up "in no uncertain terms" with the NADK at the meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group today. The United Nations Headquarters would also be fully informed of the situation, he said.

In a separate development, the spokesman said that as of 31 January, there was 20,874 international staff -- military and civilian -- from more than 100 countries serving in UNTAC throughout Cambodia's 21 provinces.

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A team of military and civilian observers with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who had gone to a village near Siem Reap yesterday to investigate charges of an "alleged cease-fire violation" there, were relieved of their vehicles and radio equipment by some members owing allegiance to the National Alliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), according to a spokesman for UNTAC.

In a press release issued today, the spokesman said that the observers, who had a "pre-arranged" meeting with the NADK, were prevented from leaving the village unless they parted with their two vehicles and radios. Negotiations between another UNTAC team dispatched from the sector headquarters and the NADK also failed to resolve the situation, he stated.

Furthermore, he described that it was a disturbing pattern in "all these incidents" which involved theft of United Nations property. "The vehicles had been purchased with funds provided by the international community at large and it was unacceptable that anybody -- let alone a faction that signed the Paris Peace Accords -- would shamelessly exert undue pressure on UNTAC personnel through armed threats," he said.

He said the matter would be brought up "in no uncertain terms" with the NADK and at the meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group today. The United Nations Headquarters would also be fully informed about the situation.

In a separate development, the spokesman said that as of 31 January, there was 20,874 international staff -- military and civilian -- from more than 100 countries serving in UNTAC throughout Cambodia's 21 provinces.

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Continuing its session in Geneva, the Commission on Human Rights has condemned all violations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia by all sides

to the conflict. It also extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on this issue for one year.

The Commission also adopted a resolution which condemned the systematic rape of women in the former Yugoslavia and expressed outrage at the practice of rape being used as a weapon of war. It asked the Special Rapporteur to pursue an investigation into the phenomenon of rape in the former Yugoslavia and to present a report to the Commission no later than 30 June.

The Commission on Human Rights will end its forty-ninth session on 12 March.

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The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond urgently to its request earlier this month for access to additional information and to two additional sites in the country. The Democratic People's Republic was asked to clarify the reasons for inconsistencies that have emerged from IAEA analysis of samples and measurements.

Concluding its four-day meeting at Vienna yesterday, the Board decided that such access was essential and urgent in order to resolve differences and to ensure verification of compliance with the safeguards agreement.

The 35-member Board asked Hans Blix, the Director-General of the IAEA, to continue dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to report back on the matter not later than one month, at a meeting of the Board to be convened for that purpose.

The Agency has conducted six inspection missions to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to verify the correctness and assess the completeness of that country's nuclear inventory, as declared to the Agency last year.

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